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issued to 4 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 230 crew and 90 passengers. Excluding Formosa, Japan is free from cholera and plague. In some localities smallpox prevails to a limited extent. In Nishiwagun, near the town of Matsuyama, in Shikoku, 16 new cases of this disease occurred on the 16th instant. One of the Russian prisoners detained at Matsuyama was attacked by the same disease on the 15th instant.

A bill has been introduced in the Diet proposing legislation of a rather stringent character, which has for its object the more strict control by the central Government of the drug business in Japan.

During the week ended February 18, 1905, bills of health were issued to 6 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 918 crew and 856 passengers; 354 steerage passengers were bathed and their clothing was disinfected; 402 intending emigrants were examined with special reference to their freedom from any loathsome or dangerous contagious disease.

Reports of communicable diseases in Yokohama have been received at the consulate-general as follows:

For the week ended February 11, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death. For the week ended February 18, enteric fever, no cases; 1 death; diphtheria, 8 cases, 1 death.

The most important sanitary event of the week has been the discovery of a plague-infected rat in Tokyo (Fukagawa Ku). Subsequently, on the 24th instant, pest bacilli were found in five other rats sent in from the same district. The authorities, in view of the gravity of the situation, are taking prompt and vigorous measures, involving, it is stated, the isolation and disinfection of some 400 houses. The city of Tokyo has been free from human plague for a period of about two years, hence the origin of the present outbreak among rats is causing some speculation.

A case of smallpox was reported from Kobe on the 22d instant.

Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Number of emigrants per steamship *Mongolia* recommended, February 17, 1905, for rejection: For Honolulu, 6; for San Francisco, 1.

MEXICO.

Report from Monterey—Mortality and sanitary conditions during the year 1904 in Monterey and State of Nuevo Leon—Mosquitoes believed to have been destroyed by frosts—Proposed waterworks and sewerage system.

Consul Hanna reports, March 17, as follows:

Mortality, 1904.—Deaths in the State, 2,299; in Monterey, 629. Rate of mortality per each 1,000 inhabitants, 7.01; children from birth to 1 year old, 846 deaths; children under 5 years old, 1,127 deaths.

The largest death rate existed among children, most of whom were of poor families, who were poorly housed and comparatively poorly fed and clothed. The winter having been unusually cold and damp largely accounts for the high death rate among the children of that class.